

14 of the selected one of the M output optical fibers having the ferrule surrounding its end portion
inserted into a second end of the selected hole; and

16 means for moving the ferrules relative to the stages along a plurality of Z axes
generally perpendicular to the X and Y axes to mate and un-mate the facets of the selected

18 input and output optical fibers.

Please add new Claims 26-28 as follows:

26. The switch of Claim 20 and further comprising spring means for biasing the ferrules to
mated positions.

27. The switch of Claim 20 wherein the holes in the central panel are tapered to facilitate
alignment and insertion of the ferrules into the holes.

28. The switch of Claim 20 wherein the means for moving the ferrules includes a plurality
of solenoid actuators.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. A readily apparent typographical error, namely, two consecutive periods, has been corrected on page 6, line 16.

In the first Office Action, Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 11-24 were rejected for anticipation over published Japanese Patent No. JP406258584A of Kobayashi et al. Claim 1 has been amended to require "a plurality of collimating lenses, each for transmitting a beam of light between aligned input and output fibers." Kobayashi et al. has no such lenses, and accordingly, withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 1, along with Claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 which depend therefrom, is requested. Similarly, Claim 11 has been amended to require "collimating each beam of light between aligned input and output fibers." Once again, Kobayashi et al. does not disclose this method step, and accordingly, withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 11, along with Claims 12 and 16-18 which depend therefrom, is requested. Claim 20 has